

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

News You Can Use

No. 35 Summer 2005

*What do city trees have to do with cleaner air?
See 'Coordinators Column' and page 2 to find out.*

Coordinator's Column

Healthy Trees – Healthy Communities

While looking through the agenda for the Association of Idaho Cities Conference, I was reminded of all that city officials must address. From transportation to transfer stations, early childhood development to economic development, environmental quality to equal opportunity. The list goes on. Then, I heard on the radio an interview with Dr. Deborah Cohen, co-author of the book *Prescription for a Healthy Nation — A New Approach to Improving Our Lives by Fixing Our Everyday World*. In the interview, Dr. Cohen used the term “healthscaping” to describe a way to design our cities to dramatically improve the health of the people who live and work there.

I mention these two things because it occurred to me how important a role trees can and do play in so many of these issues. Consider health. Did you know that Americans are among the sickest people in the world, yet we spend nearly twice as much for health care than any other nation? While we are very good at treating illness when it occurs, we are very poor at preventing it. Making our cities healthier will lead to healthier people, and healthy trees will improve the health of our communities. For example, what could be more important to our health than the air we breathe? How can trees help?

First, trees are natural air filters—perhaps the most effective in existence. People living beneath a canopy of trees breathe cleaner air. This is because dust, smoke, particulates and other pollutants are filtered out and harmful gasses such as carbon dioxide are absorbed. At the same time, just two mature trees produce all the oxygen a person requires per year. Second, by shading our homes and cars, trees reduce energy consumption

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“An Amazing Public Resource”



James R. Fazio

Community Forestry Advisory Council members and Idaho's community forestry assistants listen as city forester Del Lloyd (right center in ball cap) explains the challenges and successes of Idaho Falls' greenbelt.

Idaho Falls was the host city for the Idaho Community Forestry Council's spring meeting. Council members were treated to a guided walk with city forester Del Lloyd around a portion of the city's 6-mile greenbelt. Members agreed that the greenbelt is ‘an amazing public resource.’ A paved walkway through the linear park is heavily used for walking, roller skating and biking. A wide variety of shade and ornamental trees have transformed the sagebrush semi-desert into a virtual oasis. The greenbelt's trees, like the city's other 15,500 public trees, are under the care of the Parks and Recreation Department. Although maintenance problems include fending off beavers, invasive weeds, and occasional tree diseases, vandalism has been virtually non-existent and public appreciation and support is phenomenal. Rotary International sponsors a rubber duck race on the river as an annual fund-raiser for various greenbelt projects, bringing in some \$60,000 annually for the cause.

Visit Our Website

For more news and updates about community forestry in Idaho, may we suggest bookmarking: www.idaho.gov/lands/bureau/community_forestry/home/index.htm. Information includes why your municipality needs a strong community forestry program, resources available to help, news items, the Tree City USA program and much more.

Mea Culpa!

We try to make your newsletter error-free, but two gremlins slipped into recent issues. In our winter story about Pocatello's use of structural soil as part of the city's downtown improvement project we said six new trees were planted. It should have read: 112 new trees. In the spring issue we mentioned hearing a rumor about an ambitious tree planting campaign being conducted by Kiwanis. We now understand this was actually a Rotary project. But maybe some good can come of the error if readers will encourage both of these fine organizations to include tree planting in their plans.



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The Idaho Community Forestry Council — What is It? Who are the Members?

The Idaho Community Forestry Council, the key sponsor of this quarterly newsletter, is an unpaid panel of citizens selected from throughout the state to make recommendations to the state forester about the Idaho Department of Lands' Community Forestry Program. This is accomplished through identifying needs and evaluating program activities and accomplishments. The Council also encourages partnerships and serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information between entities that influence the state's community forests and provide resources to assist in their care. Annual activities include helping to evaluate grant applications, providing educational programs, and encouraging Arbor Day activities.

For information about community forestry and the Council's projects or to provide input related to community forestry in Idaho, feel free to contact any of the Council's members:

Deborah Rudeen, Council Chair
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Jerry Stallsmith
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Boise, ID
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Julie Thomas
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Conservation & Development
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Idaho Department of Lands personnel, the state's community forestry assistants (see masthead) and Margie Ewing, USDA Forest Service, Missoula, also participate in Council activities.



Joyce Jowdy

Community Forestry Coordinator David Stephenson (left) presents an appreciation plaque to Hank Bernsten of Emmett, Idaho. Hank left the Idaho Community Forestry Council this spring after serving for 11 years as representative of Natural Resource Conservation Districts.

County Requires Vegetation for Dust Control

Requests to create quarries and gravel pits often set the stage for controversy between the prospective businesses and neighboring landowners. For example, according to a recent article in the *Post Register*, the Bonneville County planning and zoning board approved a request by H-K Contractors for a 75-acre expansion of their gravel pit north of Idaho Falls. Neighbors, however, were concerned about dust and aesthetics and took their complaints to the county commissioners. The commissioners upheld approval of the expansion but only on the condition of restricted hours of operation and the creation of a vegetative buffer strip before work can begin. The expansion will be delayed about two years until the vegetation is established, but neighbors expressed gratitude for the restrictions.

Two Idaho Utilities Win Tree Line USA Awards

Is the utility that serves your community one of the nation's 127 that have earned The National Arbor Day Foundations Tree Line USA award? Two utilities that serve parts of Idaho hold the distinction – Idaho Power and PacifiCorp/Utah Power. This means that three standards have been met: (1) pruning trees properly near overhead lines, (2) training workers about trees, and (3) providing education and service related to trees in their communities. These utilities can display the emblems of Tree Line USA and were listed earlier this year in a full-page ad in *The Wall Street Journal*. More importantly, the award represents effort to respect community trees and use established practices of care when pruning or doing underground work. For complete information, visit arborday.org and click on 'Programs.'



Coordinator's Column continued from page 1

used for cooling and, by extension, energy production. Less consumption means fewer emissions at the tailpipe, and less production means fewer pollutants released from refineries and power plants. The result is cleaner air, healthier people and money saved—not only from reduced energy use, but in fewer long-term medical bills.

But air quality is only one aspect of the health benefits of trees. They also improve storm water infiltration, filter groundwater and reduce the flow of dirty runoff into rivers and lakes, keeping them cleaner while recharging our aquifers. Trees lower stress. People with views of trees at work or school take nearly 25% fewer sick days, are more productive and feel greater satisfaction with their jobs and their lives. Healthy cities positively affect all the issues listed in my first paragraph! Not simply an aesthetic luxury, trees are a critical component of a healthier society. An investment in trees is an investment in the health of your community, and the health of you and your family.

The Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council has chosen the air and water quality benefits of trees for a special educational campaign, and over the next year or two you will see an increased emphasis on this topic as we explore just how valuable trees are to our health. Until then, take a deep breath...and thank a tree!

-- David Stephenson

Community Forestry Coordinator

Calendar

August 2, 2005

Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Grant Training at Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Boise, Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene via the distance education network. (Phone David Stephenson or Joyce Jowdy at 1-800-432-4648, visit www.idaho.gov/lands (click on community forestry events) or email communitytrees@idl.state.id.us)

August 6-10, 2005

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference, Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN. (Jessica Marx at 888-472-8733 or jmarx@isa-arbor.com)

September 19, 2005

Deadline for Idaho Community Forestry Grant and Community Transportation Enhancement Grant applications. Must be postmarked/mailed to IDL's Coeur d'Alene office. See masthead.

September 19-21, 2005

Building Greener Communities National Conference, Nebraska City, NE. (Phone the National Arbor Day Foundation at 402-474-5655, visit www.arborday.org/programs/Conferences.html or email conferences@arborday.org)

November 17-18, 2005

National Urban Forest Conference, Charlotte, NC. (Visit: www.americanforests.org/conference/)

Upcoming Arborist Certification Exams

August 6, 2005 Redmond, OR – morning exam

October 1, 2005 Pocatello, ID – morning exam

Upcoming Certified Tree Worker Exams

None currently scheduled

For information or to register, contact:
Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.



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Tree tip

Transplant to Save Trees and Money



A 25-foot Douglas-fir was one of 19 trees moved from an overcrowded location to provide instant shade and landscaping at Salmon's Sacajawea Interpretive Center.

Sometimes transplanting existing trees is a very wise thing to do. For example, officials at the City of Salmon and the Sacajawea Interpretive Center hired Ty Williams of Corvallis, Montana to use his tree spade for moving 19 trees as part of the city's Arbor Day program. The trees were overcrowded in their original location on the property but provided 'instant landscaping' around the center's amphitheater when moved. Most of the trees at The National Arbor Day Foundation's Lied Conference Center were acquired in much the same way – in this case, using trees donated by nearby landowners.